

H.B. No. 5037 (COMM) AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Marcus Hamilton
77 Glenwood Ave
February 17, 2022

RE: State Department of Education's Budget

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Marcus Hamilton. I live in Norwalk, Connecticut and I am currently working as a resident of the CT Teacher Residency Program working in the Darien public school district. I am asking for your support in addressing minority teacher recruitment (MTR) for all districts by designating \$5.5 million as a line item in the State Department of Education section of the state budget to support the effort of any Connecticut district partnering with a Residency Program that is specifically committed to training teachers of color.

[CT-TRP](#) is an 18th-month alternative route to certification program that provides residents with a salary and benefits while attending courses. We also work side-by-side with mentor teachers and are guaranteed a full-time teaching position.

I decided to participate in the program to make a change. I wanted to change the number of minorities in schools. I felt that students should know and understand Black and Latino teachers exist. Even family members were shocked when I shared the news of becoming a teacher. My young cousin who is in third grade asked me "You're gonna be a teacher, really?" It was then that I realized I'm doing the right thing. There aren't many teachers of color working in education and that's a problem. I strongly believe the funding would help accumulate teachers who want to make a difference in education. We need your support for this funding so more Black and Latino kids can see themselves as educators.

While well intentioned, the funding mechanism enacted for MTR for Residency Programs within the 2022-23 biennial budget is inadequate to meet the needs of recruiting and retaining teachers of color across all CT public schools. I appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to the state financially supporting teacher residency.

Thank you for understanding and supporting this request.

Marcus Hamilton
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